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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mapleson *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/803,778

Filed: March 12, 2001

Atty Dkt: 1324.024A


Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Zeman, R.

Title: METHOD OF REMOVING
ENDOTOXIN FROM VACCINES

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 28, 2003.


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Date of Signature: April 28, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 28, 2003 in connection with the above-captioned patent application, which set a three-month period for reply. Response is due, therefore, by April 28, 2003; this paper is timely filed.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of removing bacterial endotoxin from a pharmaceutical process solution containing an amphiphilic pharmaceutical drug or vaccine substance which method comprises treating the solution with an effective concentration of ionic surfactant effective to dissociate the endotoxin from the amphiphilic pharmaceutical drug or vaccine substance in the solution, and then filtering the solution through a molecular weight cut-off filter having a pore size effective to retain the amphiphilic pharmaceutical drug or vaccine substance but allow the dissociated bacterial endotoxin to pass therethrough.